



# EBC Bikewriter

February 2005

The Evansville Bicycle Club Newsletter

## Musings from the President

Reflecting back on 2004, it seems to have gone by so quickly. In the beginning, my goal was to see if I could push myself to be club mileage leader. I quickly realized that while it would be physically demanding, success would ultimately depend on the right mental attitude. As the year progressed, other long time goals began to be fulfilled. Things like speed, hill climbing, endurance all improved. While I am in no way the best rider in the club, achieving my goal has given me a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction that I will always cherish. Thanks to all of you in the club with whom I rode so many miles for helping, particularly on the hard days (wind, cold, heat, hills, exhaustion, etc.-- come to think of it, that was most of them). Your encouragement and friendships have enriched my life forever. I particularly want to thank Debbie, my better half, for supporting me, loving me and putting up with me through the whole year!

### Past Officers... A Job Well Done!

As we officially wrap up 2004, let me express the gratitude of all the members in the club for all the hard work done by our outgoing officers. Very special thanks to Dave Ashworth for being the president for the past two years, Bob Messick who was the secretary for the past four years and Julie Simmons who was the tour director this last year. Great job guys!

### New Officers for 2005... Let's Show Our Support!

So now we begin 2005 with a new slate of officers and office holders who will do their best to meet the needs of the EBC. There are three new people in the group. They are Terrell Maurer, Diane Bies, and Jay Vercellotti. Please join me in thanking all who have volunteered for their commitment of time and resources. Also, I would ask that you support them in their work as they take on these very important jobs that make participating in our hobby so enjoyable!

|                 |                |                   |                 |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| President:      | Mark Oliver    | Statistician:     | Rusty Yeager    |
| Vice President: | Terrell Maurer | Touring Director: | Jay Vercellotti |
| Secretary:      | Diane Bies     | Website:          | Bob Wefel       |
| Treasurer:      | Bobby Willett  | Newsletter:       | Faye Carter     |
| Membership:     | Jim Niethammer |                   |                 |

### Annual Awards Banquet... A Night To Remember!

For those of you were not able to make it to the Annual Awards Banquet, you missed a wonderful meal and an excellent meeting. Thanks to Hope Rold for organizing the banquet and seeing to it that we had superb appetizers and dinner. Also to Rusty and Lori Yeager who ordered and organized all the awards, provided an entertaining slide show (often with humorous comment!) and emceed the presentation of the awards. What a super job you all did!! Please be sure to thank them the next time you see them!

The following mileage awards were presented at the banquet:

|                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Overall mileage leader:       | Mark Oliver with 7,539 miles.   |
| Mileage leader for the women: | Mary Williams with 5,219 miles. |
| Most centuries:               | Gary Gardner with 52 centuries. |

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Members who were present at the banquet voted for the following awards to be presented

Rookie of the Year: Jason Lee  
Ride Host of the Year: Mark and Debbie Oliver  
Lonely Hearts Club: Debbie Oliver  
League of American Cyclist  
Volunteer of the Year: Dave Ashworth

And a very special award went to Gary Gardner for a lifetime achievement. He completed his 500<sup>th</sup> century in 2004. Very cool Gary!

**Kudos...**

I would have liked to have thanked many people for many things the night of the banquet, but quite frankly some of that night still remains a blur. To that end, let me say now what I failed to say then.

To Jim Niethammer, sorry I left you off the list when I presented the candidates. You've done a great job in membership. There was no slight intended.

To all who have hosted a ride in 2004, thank you from all of us. I know how much work is involved and you all did an excellent job. The chance to hang around together after a ride with cold drink, good food and good friends adds so much to the ride and to us as a club. Thanks!

To all those who have marked the routes that we ride month after month, we would all be lost without you!

Thanks!

To all those who volunteered on the Great Pumpkin Metric, this is our one and only fund-raiser. The amount of time and energy that it takes to pull off an event like this is staggering. Without the help of many in the club it would not be possible. Thanks!

For all of you who have worked in the best interest of our club by serving on committees, coming to meetings or in any other way. Thanks!

And from Debbie and myself, thank you for the honors you bestowed on us at the banquet. Your kindness touched us deeply and we are very grateful!

Finally, let me wish each and every one of you a safe, enjoyable and successful year of cycling in 2005!  
Mark Oliver



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Robert (Skip) Frazier**  
**Andrew Miller**  
**Shawn Norman**

**BICYCLE WANTED:**

I would like to buy a bicycle.

Looking for a 54cm roadbike  
STI shifters desired

Help a college student on a budget!  
Call 812-858-7902.

## Why Do We Do It? by Chad W. Burleigh

"The unexamined life is not worth living." These are the words of the famous philosopher, Socrates. Lately, I have been trying to use this ancient piece of wisdom to explain the reason why we cyclists ever became cyclists. Why? What is it that motivates us? What are the reasons?

Between the age of ten and sixteen, my ten-speed Huffy Pulsar road bike faithfully served as my personal transport. One would think, as I grew older, that I would appreciate the loyal service that my bike provided. But no, as I grew older, I dreamed of the day when I could ditch my steadfast travel companion for a car.

That day came, I got a Mustang, and the bike sat in the garage collecting dust. I think this story is a very common tale. But, something happened to us. Why did we choose to resume riding a bicycle? Funny, I remember vividly riding my bike for hours upon hours when I was a boy, but never considered it a hobby. For most of us, I would say that the word "hobby" is quite the understatement. "Addiction" seems a bit more suitable.

Why do we do it? Why on Earth would anybody do a century on a rainy 45-degree day with 20 mph wind gusts . . . and call it recreation? What would possess a person to race up a mountain when their quads feel like they had been injected with battery acid . . . and call it fun?

I believe there are as many reasons for riding as there are riders. We all have our motivations. Fitness is certainly one factor, but it can't be the best reason, at least for me. For example, when I am driving to work, and see a cyclist out riding, I don't say to myself "man, I sure wish I could trade places with that person so I could burn a few extra calories!" I am jealous of that rider for the freedom he or she is enjoying. If I was solely interested in fitness, I would be happy simply riding a stationary bike in front of the television. We need something more than that.

We cyclists need the cool moist air of an early summer morning. We need the pleasant company of friends in a smooth pace line. We need the joy of completing that first century, or the twentieth in one season. We need the satisfaction of hanging with the "fast" group, almost as much as we need the humbling experience of getting dropped by them. We need to hear the birds sing, the smell of freshly cut grass . . . if only to remind us that we forgot to mow our own lawns. We need the thrill of riding an unfamiliar road. We need the anticipation of the sight that awaits us around the next turn. We need to hear the encouragement of onlookers as we are in a breakaway with ten miles left to race.

But, the best of these things are the friendships. I am speaking of the ones that go way beyond our silly little bicycles. I'm speaking of the kind that will see a person through the most difficult times of their life. I have made some very good friends while riding. It is my belief that while people keep building better bikes, bikes can also build better people.

Well, my Mustang is long gone. I can't say I really even miss it. But, that Huffy Pulsar is still in my shed awaiting the day when I'll surf the net looking for original parts to restore her to the way she looked when I won her by selling fund-raising junk door-to-door. I can barely remember the night I drove my car alone for the first time, but I can vividly remember the first time I rode a bike without training wheels. There is just something about riding a bike that keeps us young both physically and spiritually. It seems that riding the bike is one of the few, but very strong connections, we have to our youth. We just happen to call it a hobby now.



## Whine and Cheese (Look What I won) Part II

By Craig Watson

After our unscheduled day off, everyone was anxious to get back out on the road. Although it was arm warmer weather, there was no rain in the forecast for day 4. We rolled out of Yountville. I wasn't feeling all that great, thinking maybe the Mexican dinner from the previous evening might make its presence known. The ride to Calistoga was uneventful, just a few mountains between breakfast and lunch. I was amazed at how fast some people were able to descend. People that weighed a whole lot less would drop me on the way down. At one point, Frankie went screaming past me. I jumped on his wheel and followed him down. Scary. I did learn a few things, though.

We ate lunch in Calistoga. Frankie shared some stories about racing in the tour and we had some laughs. Some of the laughs came at the expense of my girth and total lack of speed going up the hills. The group was together after we left the lunch stop. Things were calm and I was looking forward to a nice 28 mile ride into Healdsburg. That didn't happen. Ben decided he needed to get his heart rate up and took off. Tommy and Carl soon joined him. After some indecision on my part, I managed to get on the back of the train. We left the others behind. None of us really knew where we were going, but we were getting there fast. We did stop and consult our map as we approached Healdsburg, there were no signs of the other group. Hey, it wasn't a race, but we were winning. We approached the final turn and didn't know which way to go. We stopped and figured out that we needed to turn right. As we waited for the light to change, the other group caught us. Dang. Frankie rolled up and informed us that we were now *gruppo compacto*. It was only during the post ride beer that we learned Frankie had organized the other group with the expressed goal of chasing us down. Oh well. We dined that evening at *Domaine Michele Schlumberger Winery*. We had the entire winery to ourselves for a private wine tasting and dinner. Both wine and dinner were excellent. We had a great time making fun of Jake the guide.

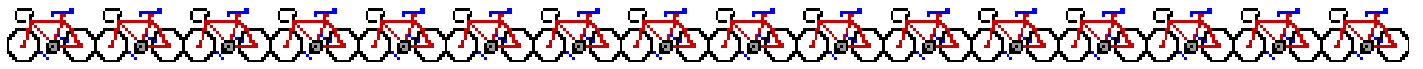
The route for day 5 looked challenging. It was. Very challenging. The highlight (lowlight?) of the day was the climb up to Geyser Peak. The first thirty miles of the day weren't bad. The group stayed together until the climb started. A quotation from the directions pretty much describes the ride:

*Continue straight on Geyser Road. Begin uphill. Mix of pavement, dirt road and Cattle guards for the next 8 miles, use caution.*

This was all true, except the climb was more like 15 miles. The scenery was great, but the climb was hard. I was with another rider, Tom, for most of the climb. Just when we thought we were lost, we spotted the Trek Travel van. We stopped for water. Words of encouragement were issued by Jake - "just a few more miles". He didn't tell us that the next part was the hardest. Tom stayed back to wait for his brother-in-law, so I pressed on with Frankie and Lesley. We took a right at the stop sign and started climbing again. Lesley dropped off, I was left alone with Frankie. Frankie wanted to talk, I didn't. I couldn't. Frankie got the not-so-subtle hint and amused himself by riding wheelies up hill. When he tired of this, he would go back to check on Lesley, then he would ride back up to check on me. Eventually, the three of us go back together and rode to peak together. A serious downhill followed, followed by yet another climb. Eventually, I made it to the lunch stop. By the way, cattle guards at 50 mph are not fun. The rest of the day was much easier, although I was very tired at the end of the day. We had dinner at Madrona Manor.

The group decided to meet at 8:00 am the next morning for a short 20 mile ride. I was expecting a recovery ride, but I did not get one. It was cold and the pace was fast. Very fast. EBC Tuesday-night-racing-series fast. After breakfast, we loaded our gear in the shuttle bus and set off for San Francisco. Ben was spending the night in SF. My flight was not until midnight, so we spent the afternoon wandering Fisherman's Wharf and taking in the sights of the city.

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**NEW CLUB ROUTES**  
**By Jim Niethammer**



This Month there is a new starting spot for our Saturday Club rides. These rides will begin at the new Elite Fitness Center located at Hwy 57 and Kansas Rd. Take HWY 57 N. from HWY 41. Turn left at the stop light just down from the Oak Hill Rd. and HWY 57 stop light and you are there.



Doug Heiman, who is the owner of Elite Fitness and also an EBC club member, has agreed to let us use the parking lot and restrooms. However, we don't want to take up all the parking spots, so if it looks like they are busy we can park on the old cutoff section of Seib Rd. right next to Elite. Please be courteous and do not leave any trash laying around. This could be one of the best starting spots we have and will be a much needed variation from the Access Rd. and Dogtown Saturday rides.



The distances for the routes are 16, 22, 32, and 42 miles. They will be on mostly familiar roads and will include parts of other club routes and parts of other clubs routes only backwards. The 42 mile route has a Motomart at the 20 mile mark.



Hope everyone enjoys the new routes.



**[Continued from Page 4] Whine and Cheese**

Despite some bad weather, this trip was nothing short of fantastic. I learned a lot of things. Here are few:

1. Don't try to get away from a former professional bike racer. He will hunt you down. And then make fun of you.
2. People with British accents are just funny, regardless of what they say.
3. No matter where you are, when a strong rider informs you that their legs are tight, you are going to suffer all day long.
4. You can take nine cyclists from around the world, who have never met, put them in van, give them a bicycle and some wine, and they will be happy. Our group sure was.

My thanks again to Gilles Cycling and Fitness for providing the trip.

# EBC Bikewriter

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## The Evansville Bicycle Club, Inc.

New Membership and Renewal Application 2005

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Release of Liability

Evansville Bicycle Club, Inc. is organized for sole purpose of providing it's members with notification of central meeting points and times. Members freely elect to ride together as a group, following a route of choice. In signing this form for myself and/or my family members I understand and agree to absolve EBC, Inc. and it's organizers or sponsors for all blame for any injury misadventure, harm loss or inconvenience suffered as a result of participation in any ride or activity associated with or sponsored by the EBC, Inc. I further understand that I, as an individual am responsible to abide by all traffic laws and regulations governing bicycling and take full responsibility for my actions.

Make Checks payable to: Evansville Bicycle Club, Inc.

Mail to: Jim Niethammer  
 3008 Mockingbird Lane  
 Evansville, IN 47710  
 Email [hamrtym@aol.com](mailto:hamrtym@aol.com)

**Individual \$12**

**Family \$20 +**

**\$1/child**

**President** Mark Oliver (812-476-3898)  
**VP** Terrell Maurer (812-479-1116)  
**Secretary** Diane Bies (812-473-3546)  
**Treasurer** Bob Willett (270-836-3546)

**Membership** Jim Niethammer (812-491-1709)  
**Statistician** Rusty Yeager (812-402-1787)  
**Website** Bob Wefel (812-490-0686)  
**Touring** Jay Vercellotti (812-867-7549)